

## BOOK REVIEW

KEITH RUSHFORTH. 1999. **A photographic guide to the trees of Britain and Europe.** Photographs assembled by FLPA (Frank Lane Picture Agency). (ISBN 0 00 2220013 9, pbk.). Harper Collins Publishers, 77-85 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8JB, U.K. (Orders: [www.trafalgarsquarebooks.com](http://www.trafalgarsquarebooks.com), [www.fireandwater.com](http://www.fireandwater.com), 800-423-4525). £16.99 British pounds, as listed on the cover; \$14.99 on website listing. [= ca. \$24.00 US dollars, or ca. \$21.00], 825 + color photos, 3 3/4" × 7 1/2".

"The coverage includes the whole of Europe where plants make trees. This ranges from the Mediterranean north to beyond the Arctic circle, and from the Urals to the Atlantic coast and islands. ... The coverage includes both native and introduced (or exotic) trees." "Nearly 1,200 tree species (plus a number of prominent cultivars) are featured in the book, with over 825 illustrated and 750 described in detail." The author notes that "specialist collections such as those of major arboreta or tree collections ... will contain a number of trees not featured here," but a large number of hybrids and selections are described under the "Varieties" heading in the commentaries.

A relatively short, up-front and to-the-point portion introduces principles of classification and nomenclature and gives an overview of how species are defined. A workable "Key to the Colour Plates" gives a range of illustrated choices (e.g., leaves pinnate and buds alternate, pp. 320-39; leaves digitate and buds opposite, pp. 310-11) to lead one into the section of photos where a tree in question might be found. There also is a similar 'sort mechanism' (using color photos) to fruit types. The pictures are small but excellent, with a good mix of habit and leaf, flower, and bark details. Species in the photo section are arranged by morphological category, but the written descriptions and commentaries are arranged alphabetically by genus and species. Larger genera are introduced by an informal key that separates species into groups. Each species has some or all of these categories of commentary: Description, Range, Habitat, Varieties, Synonyms, Similar species. Comments on variation in chromosome number are a consistent feature. As might be expected in a treatment of this scope, some of the observations on cultivation and appearance, etc., appear to be more first-hand than others.

This is an excellent book, surely one of great utility for English tree-lovers, and because so many of these species are likely to be found in cooler climes of North America, Yanks also will appreciate it. It is a relatively small-sized book (9.5 × 19 cm; advertised as "The only photographic field guide you can use in the wild") but thick with 1336 pages! The pages are thin but seem to be durable; same for the binding, and it comes in a plastic cover. The advertised price seems remarkably low, apparently designed to get copies into wide distribution. It is one of a Collins Wildlife Trust series that includes guides to birds, butterflies, insects, wildflowers, and mushrooms of the same region.

—Guy L. Nesom, *Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.*